

Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting

May 19, 2021, 7 pm – 9 pm

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order and welcome

Meeting called to order by Chair member Judy Fraser at 7 pm. The following meeting was held electronically pursuant to Emergency Ordinance No. 2020-27. Attendance is listed below.

Type	Name	Attendance
Member	Marian Carroll	Present
Member	Diana Dakik	Present
Member, Chair	Judy Fraser	Present
Member	Richard Gongaware	Absent
Member	Timothy Killian	Present
Member	Ben Lebron	Absent
Member	Michael Lee	Present
Member, Vice Chair	Alice Lippert	Present
Fairfax High School Liaison	Billy Bates	Present
Member	Mitch Sutterfield	Present
Staff	Stefanie Kupka	Present

2. Public Comments

There were no comments.

3. Consideration of the April 21, 2021 meeting minutes

Mitch Sutterfield made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, which was seconded by Tim Killian and passed unanimously.

4. ESC Resolution update

The ESC Charter Review Group submitted recommended amendments to the ESC resolution, which were presented to the City Council and adopted on May 11th. The ESC will revisit the general ESC document to incorporate some of the items in the revised ESC resolution.

5. FY2021 ESC budget

There is approximately \$330.00 left in the ESC's budget. Judy Fraser notified the committee that an additional 20 butterfly friendly plants will be purchased to give away at an upcoming native plant event in the City of Fairfax and that the remaining funding (after the plant purchase) will be used to buy Plant NOVA Native books with the remaining funds.

6. FY2021 ESC Annual Report (July 2020-June 2021)

Judy Fraser shared a draft version of the ESC Annual Report with the Committee to discuss. She will share the draft on the ESC Google Drive, so the committee has the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the report.

7. Work Plan FY2022

The ESC discussed covering the following topics in FY2022. These items will be discussed in further detail at the June meeting, so it can be incorporated in the ESC's annual report.

- Stormwater Utility
- Recycling
- Urban Forestry
- Climate and Energy Action Planning

8. Internal Communications – Google Drive, Calendar

Ben Lebron set up a Google Drive and Calendar to centralize ESC documents and encourage participation with City Council and City Staff feedback requests. Alice Lippert suggested moving applicable documents from the old drive to the new drive, and shutting down the old drive. Judy Fraser recommended that rules should be documented on what files should be posted and how the sites will be managed.

9. Chairperson items

- **Monarch Initiative Update:** A total of 110 plants were donated to the monarch initiative to be distributed to households throughout the City. Additional plants were donated by local gardeners. The remaining plants will be distributed at the June 5th garden sale taking place on Country Hill Drive. The monarch initiative group is looking into additional events and are thinking of starting a plant swap.

10. Committee member items

- **Michael Lee:** He noted that it's restaurant week next week in the City of Fairfax.

11. Staff items

- Due to a scheduling conflict, the June 16th meeting will need to be rescheduled. The committee agreed to meet on June 9th.
- **Final Urban Forestry Program Evaluation Report:** Over the past year, the City worked with a consultant, PlanIT Geo, and an internal stakeholder team to develop the report. The report was finalized in April and has been posted to the website. The report has identified the City's goals and priorities for managing its trees and forests; analyzed the current status of the City's urban forest resources and its management program; and identified the methods, resources and personnel that are needed to achieve the

City's goals. The funding for hiring an Urban Forester was approved in the FY2022 budget.

- **Yard Waste Plastic Bag Ban:** City staff will be introducing an amendment to the City's Solid Waste Code to prohibit the use of plastic bags for the set out and collection of yard waste at the 5/25 City Council meeting. The public hearing will be set for 6/8.
- **Plastic Bag Tax:** In 2020, Virginia General Assembly passed SB11 - *Disposable plastic bags; local tax*, which authorizes any county or city in Virginia to impose a tax of five cents per bag on disposable plastic bags provided to customers by convenience stores, drug stores, and grocery stores. The City is partnering with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to seek feedback from impacted regulated communities regarding the plastic bag tax, by requesting them to fill out a survey so we can obtain information on their current plastic bag practices, what they anticipate as challenges with the implementation of a plastic bag tax, and what resources would be helpful to communicate the plastic bag fee to their customers and staff. The survey closes on May 31st.
- **Solarize NOVA:** The 2021 Solarize NOVA campaign runs through June 30th. During this time residents and business can sign up for a free solar assessment, free energy assessment, and take advantage of discounted prices on solar panels, battery storage systems and EV charging stations.
- **LED Streetlight Conversion:** The street lighting section of the City's Public Facilities Manual has been updated with new standards for dark sky LED streetlight fixtures and poles. The City will be converting all electric street lights with LED fixtures, which will reduce energy use, provide cost savings, and enhance the safety and quality of the City's street lighting.

12. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Next regular ESC meeting is June 9, 2021 @ 7 p.m.

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